

**Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item**  
**ISTEP+ Applied Skills Sample for Classroom Use**  
**ELA – Grade 6**  
**(Writing Prompt)**

***Apollo 11 pairing***

*This pairing includes two parts. Part 1 (Apollo 11) provides background information on Apollo 11. It includes a picture of the astronauts meeting with President Nixon after touchdown. Part 2 (Telephone Conversation) is a conversation between President Nixon and the Apollo 11 astronauts.*

**Part 1: Apollo 11**

**1** During a Congressional address on May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy proposed that the United States accelerate its space program and set as a national goal a manned lunar landing and safe return by the end of the decade. With the launch of *Apollo 11* on July 16, 1969, that goal became a reality. The *Apollo 11* astronauts were Neil Armstrong, mission commander, Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin, lunar module pilot, and Michael Collins, command module pilot. The spacecraft went into lunar orbit 110 kilometers above the Moon's surface. On July 20, Armstrong and Aldrin landed the Lunar Module *Eagle* on the Moon's Sea of Tranquility at 4:18 p.m. Approximately six and one-half hours later, Armstrong put his left foot down on the rocky plain while the largest television audience in history watched live. Michael Collins remained in orbit in the command module conducting scientific experiments and taking photographs. Armstrong and Aldrin "moon walked" for three hours, setting up scientific instruments and collecting soil and rock samples. The astronauts also planted an American flag in the lunar soil and left a plaque commemorating man's landing on the Moon.



Source: <http://www.nasa.gov/content/president-nixon-greets-the-returning-apollo-11-astronauts/>  
President Nixon Greets the Returning Apollo 11 Astronauts

**Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item**  
**ISTEP+ Applied Skills Sample for Classroom Use**  
**ELA – Grade 6**  
**(Writing Prompt)**

**2** The *Apollo 11* astronauts, left to right, Commander Neil A. Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr., inside the Mobile Quarantine Facility aboard the *USS Hornet*, listen to President Richard M. Nixon on July 24, 1969, as he welcomes them back to Earth and congratulates them on the successful mission. The astronauts had splashed down in the Pacific Ocean at 12:50 p.m. EDT about 900 miles southwest of Hawaii.

**3** *Apollo 11* launched from Cape Kennedy on July 16, 1969, carrying the astronauts into an initial Earth-orbit of 114 by 116 miles. An estimated 530 million people watched Armstrong's televised image and heard his voice describe the event as he took ". . . one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind" on July 20, 1969.

Source: [http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/space\\_level2/apollo11.html](http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/space_level2/apollo11.html)

**Part 2: Telephone Conversation**

**Telephone Conversation with the Apollo 11 Astronauts on the Moon July 20, 1969**

**1** [President Nixon speaking.] THE PRESIDENT. Hello Neil and Buzz, I am talking to you by telephone from the Oval Room at the White House, and this certainly has to be the most historic telephone call ever made from the White House.

**2** I just can't tell you how proud we all are of what you have done. For every American this has to be the proudest day of our lives, and for people all over the world I am sure that they, too, join with Americans in recognizing what an immense feat this is.

**3** Because of what you have done the heavens have become a part of man's world, and as you talk to us from the Sea of Tranquility, it inspires us to redouble our efforts to bring peace and tranquility to earth.

**4** For one priceless moment in the whole history of man all the people on this earth are truly one—one in their pride in what you have done and one in our prayers that you will return safely to earth.

**5** ASTRONAUT ARMSTRONG. Thank you, Mr. President. It is a great honor and privilege for us to be here representing not only the United States, but men of peaceable nations, men with an interest and a curiosity, and men with a vision for the future. It is an honor for us to be able to participate here today.

**6** THE PRESIDENT. Thank you very much, and I look forward, all of us look forward, to seeing you on the *Hornet* on Thursday.

**Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item\*\*\*Non-Secure Item**  
**ISTEP+ Applied Skills Sample for Classroom Use**  
**ELA – Grade 6**  
**(Writing Prompt)**

Passage: Apollo 11

**Content Standard:**

**6.W.3.2:** Write informative compositions on a variety of topics that –

- Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition and classification.
- Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples from various sources and texts.
- Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Include formatting (e.g., *headings*), graphics (e.g., *charts, tables*), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Choose language and content-specific vocabulary that express ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.
- Establish and maintain a style appropriate to purpose and audience.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.

Item Type: Writing Prompt

Pts: 10

DOK: 4

Grade: 6

You have read the article about the first moon landing and a transcript of a phone conversation between President Nixon and the astronauts. Some historians claim that the *Apollo 11* trip to the moon is the most significant event of the twentieth century. Using information from BOTH the article and the telephone conversation, write an essay explaining the significance of this event.

Be sure to include

- an explanation of the significance of the event
- support with relevant details from BOTH the article and the telephone conversation
- an introduction, a body, and a conclusion